

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

In complete response to the outstanding Official Action of May 9, 2005, on the above-identified application, reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 11, 12, 26-32 are pending. Claims 11, 12, 31, and 32 are currently amended. Claims 1-10, and 13-25 have been cancelled. Claims 33-42 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claim 10 was objected to because it appeared that the word "weigh" should be changed to "weight". Claim 10 has been cancelled, thereby rendering this objection moot.

Restriction Requirement

In response to the Requirement for Restriction, Applicant affirms the provisional election, with traverse, of group I, claims 1-32, drawn to a method of separation, classified in class 95, subclass 288.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication on page 7 that claims 26-31 are allowed. Applicant also gratefully acknowledges the indication on page 7 that Claim 32 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph rejection. Claim 32 has been amended accordingly. Applicant also gratefully acknowledged the indication on page 7 that Claims 11 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 11 and 12 have been amended accordingly.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 32 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 31 and 32 have been

amended to make them dependent upon claim 29, and thereby overcome this rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gu '745. Claims 1-3 have been cancelled, thereby rendering these rejections moot.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hintermaier '153. Claims 1-8 have been cancelled, thereby rendering these rejections moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 9, 10, 13-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Japanese publication '405 in view of either Hintermaier '153 or Gu '745. Claims 9, 10, 13-25 have been cancelled, thereby rendering these rejections moot.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is believed that the present application now stands in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should the examiner believe a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of the application, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

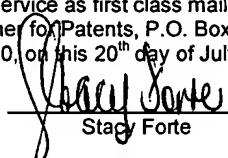


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 20th day of July, 2005.



Stacy Forte

Application No. 10/750,776
Amendment dated July 20, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 9, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 3 and Figure 4. This sheet, which includes Figure 3 and Figure 4, replaces the original sheet including Figure 3 and Figure 4, elements 170, 175, 190, and 195 have been deleted.

Attachment: **Replacement Sheet**
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

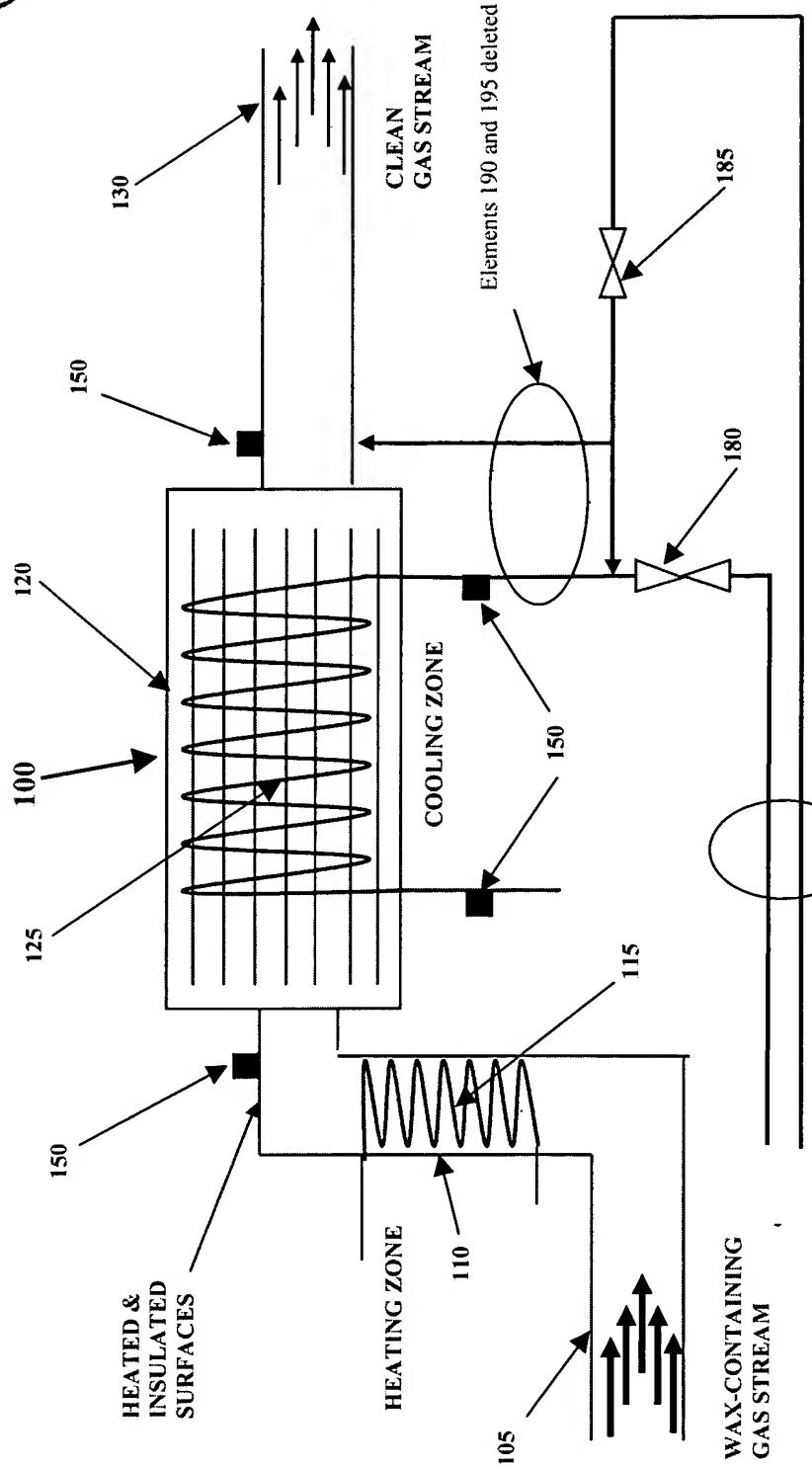


Figure 3

Elements 170 and 175 deleted

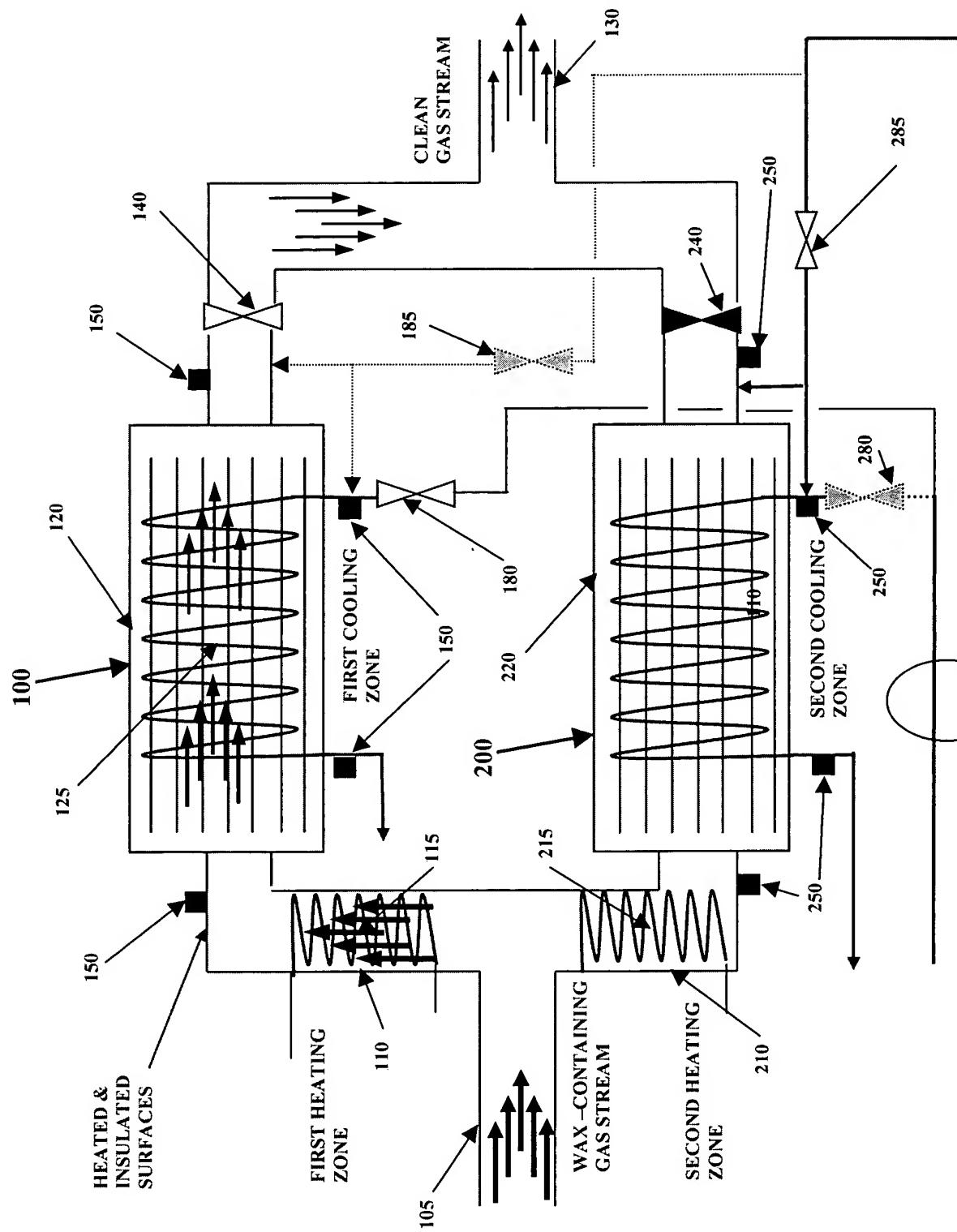


Figure 4 2
Figure 4

Elements 170 and 175 deleted